

# AYR UNITED FC

PRE-SEASON FRIENDLY FIXTURES  
OFFICIAL PROGRAMME No. 1

£2



Saturday 14th July, 3pm

v Motherwell



Monday 16th July, 7.45pm

v Partick Thistle



Wednesday 18th July, 7.45pm

v Bolton Wanderers



Saturday 21st July, 5pm

v Glentoran





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# MARK ROBERTS



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**On the 15th May 2012, Mark Roberts took over the managerial reins of Ayr United from Brian Reid following the club's relegation to Division Two.**

Roberts, 36, is embarking on his first journey into management at Somerset Park after enjoying a lengthy playing career which saw him playing for nine clubs including Kilmarnock, St Mirren, Falkirk, Partick Thistle and Airdrie United.

In recent times, Mark Roberts has still been competing at a high level. Since signing for The Honest Men in 2009, he has appeared 148 times and scored 54 goals.

*“ Being a Manager was something I wanted to do and I love this club... ”*

Mark will take on the role of player-manager so he can pull on the boots when required.

Roberts has helped the club to two promotions as well as many cup shocks. he was the man who scored the decisive goals that knocked Hibs and Hearts out of cup contention.

Roberts will be assisted by Head of Youth Football and Development, David White who has been employed by the Academy for five years.

The manager is employed on a full time basis and is looking to utilise the club's Academy in order to strengthen the



first team squad.

After being appointed as Manager Roberts said: "Becoming the Manager was a no brainer as it is the natural progression for me. I've been at the club for the last three and a half years and this is where I can see my career path taking me. It has

probably come along a bit quicker than I thought but there was no way I could turn the offer down. This is a great chance for me and I'm really looking forward to it."

*“ I'm delighted I've got the chance to manage Ayr United... ”*



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# OUR PAST FRIENDLIES...

## BOLTON WANDERERS

Friday, 17th April, 1896  
Somerset Park  
Ayr FC 2 - Bolton Wanderers 3

An Ayr Observer advertisement for this game made it sound like a circus. It read:

**“** *I Witness The  
Cracks Perform -  
Johnny Somerville!  
Sutcliff, The  
Demon Goalkeeper!  
Jones, The  
Stalwart! And  
Other Ayrshire  
Players* **”**

In winning 3-2 the Bolton players lived up to their star billing. Moreover it was a successful return to Somerset Park for Johnny Somerville, formerly of Ayr FC.

The Ayr public indulged in a veritable feast of football at this time. On the previous night Sunderland had beaten Parkhouse 2-1 over at Beresford Park. Then, on Tuesday, 21st April, Aston Villa (the new league champions) beat Ayr FC 3-1 at Somerset Park. Derby County then beat Parkhouse 2-1 at Beresford Park on Wednesday, 29th April.



Saturday, 2nd August, 1969  
Somerset Park  
Ayr United 1 - Bolton Wanderers 2

**Team:** Stewart, Malone, Murphy, Fleming, Quinn, Mitchell, Young, Ferguson, Ingram, McCulloch and Rough **Subs:** McFadzean, Reynolds, McAnespie and Gilmour.

**Bolton Wanderers:** Hopkinson, Ritson, Hallows, Rimmer, Hulme, Marsh, Wharton, Byron, Fletcher, Greaves and Taylor **Subs:** Williamson, Phillips and Redford.

The Stewart, Malone, Murphy team is the one that fans can still easily recite. This was the first match in which this team was fielded. The visiting manager was Bolton legend Nat Lofthouse (pictured).



John Byron (57) and Ronnie Phillips (70) gave the visitors a 2-0 lead.

Late in the match Alex Ingram was impeded and Dick Malone narrowed the deficit from the resultant penalty.

## GLENTORAN

Saturday, 20th July, 2002  
The Oval

Glentoran 1 - Ayr United 0

**Team:** Nelson, Nicolson, Lovering, McManus, Campbell, Craig, Chaplain, Cosgrove, Annand,



Craig Nelson

Grady and Sheerin **Subs:** Kean, Black, Latta, McVeigh, Dodds and Dunlop.

**Glentoran:** Morris, Nixon, Glendinning, Walker, Haveron, Leeman, McCann (1), McCann (2), Smith, Fitzgerald and Lockhart **Subs:** Armstrong, Smyth, Halliday, Hunter, Curran, Armour, Kilmartin, McKeown and Walsh.

Andy Smith got the only goal of the game after four minutes. The Glens goalkeeper was Elliott Morris who was making his debut after moving from West Bromwich Albion. However Craig Nelson then John Dodds were somewhat busier in the Ayr goal.



Earlier in the tour Ayr United had beaten Dungannon Swifts 4-2 and Glenavon 3-2.



# AND OUR PAST FRIENDLI

## **PARTICK THISTLE**

**Saturday, 16th April, 1898**

**Meadowside**

**Partick Thistle 4 - Ayr FC 1**

We all know where Firhill is but what about Meadowside, Partick Thistle's previous home ground? The location of this olden-day friendly was roughly on the present day site of the north entrance to the Clyde tunnel.

**Saturday, 5th April, 1947**

**Somerset Park**

**Ayr United 2 - Partick Thistle 2**

**Team:** Barbour, John Stewart, Kelly, Smith, McNeil, Nesbit, Beattie, Ouchterlonie, Morrison, Wallace and Wood.

This was a decent result against the 'A' Division visitors. The Ayr scorers were Malky Morrison (7) and Jock Wallace (73).



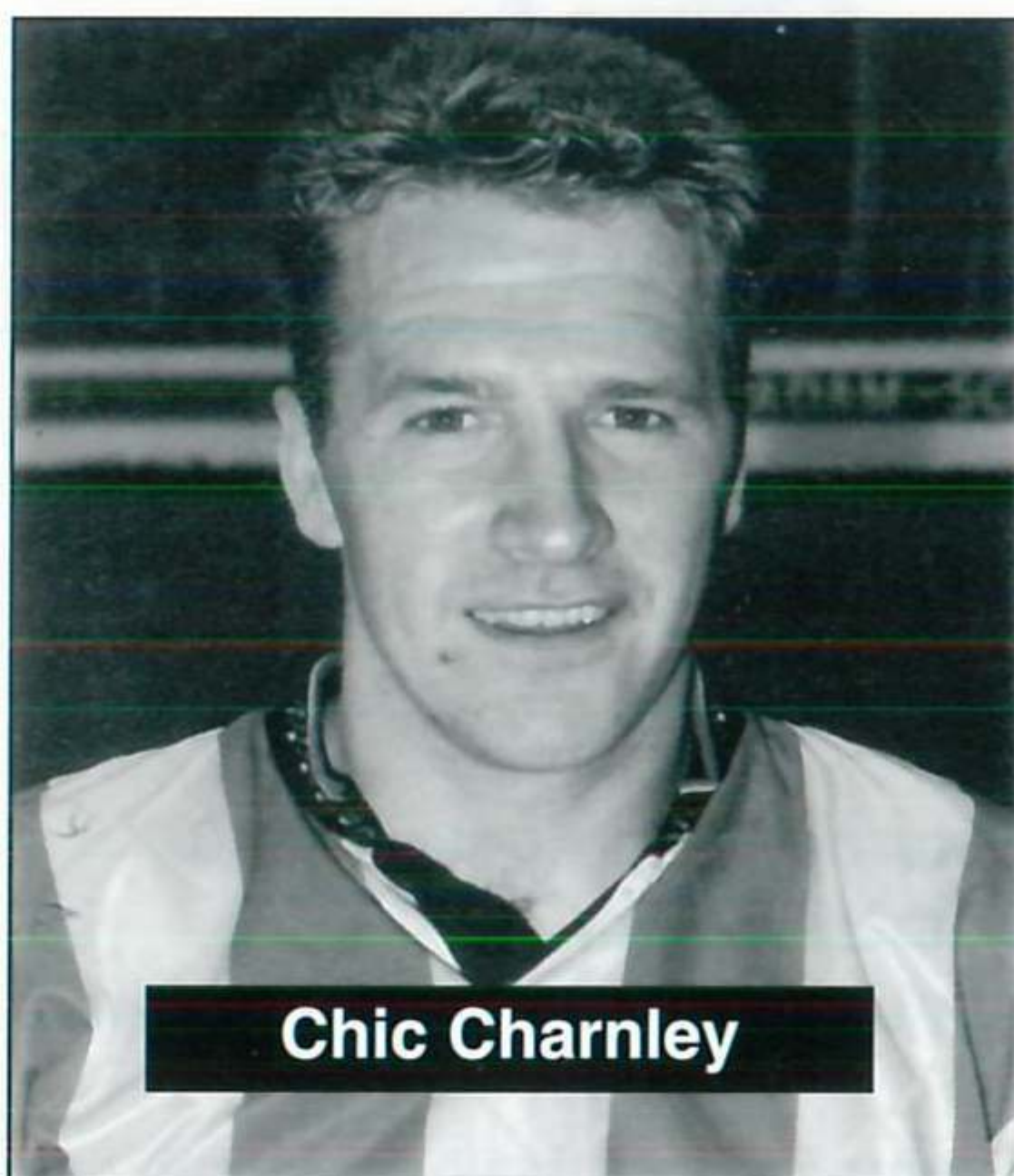
**Friday, 17th February, 1995**

**Somerset Park**

**Ayr United 0 - Partick Thistle 2**

**Team:** Duncan, McKilligan, Biggart, Hood, Rolling, Sharples, Bilsland, Tannock, Jackson, Stainrod and George; subs – Gorgues, Dowe, McFarlane, Gribben and McIntosh.

**Partick Thistle:** Cairns, McKee, Milne, Turner, Tierney, Welsh, Byrne, Smith, Foster, Gibson and Charnley **Subs:** Law, Docherty and Hutton.



**Chic Charnley**

The next day was the Scottish Cup fourth round date and both clubs were out. Wayne Foster (32) scored with a low shot from a David Byrne cross. John Sharples inexplicably teed up Wayne Foster (88) for his second goal.

**Wednesday, 16th July, 2003**

**Somerset Park**

**Ayr United 1 - Partick Thistle 6**

**Team:** Roy; Lyle, Crawley, Smyth, Campbell, Craig, Chaplain, Steven Ferguson, Kean, McColl and Black **Subs:** McGrady, Kerr, Burgess, Latta, Andrew Ferguson, Mullen and Hillcoat.

**Partick Thistle:** McKenzie, Anis, Milne, Whyte, Murray, Rowson, Bonnes, Taylor, Britton, Grady and Waddell **Subs:** Lilley, McBride, Panther, Thompson, Mitchell, Ross and Pinkowski.

James Grady (12, 34), Gerry Britton (21) and Ricky Waddell (29) made it 4-0 comfortably before the break. Mark Campbell (40) pulled one back but that was the extent of

the comeback. Gerry Britton (53) and Stuart Taylor (60) completed the rout.

**Saturday 21st July, 2007**

**Firhill**

**Partick Thistle 1 - Ayr United 2**

**Team:** Corr, Swift, Lowing, Forrest, Henderson, Stevenson, Hamilton, Casey, Moore, Williams and McLaren **Subs:** Higgins, Pettigrew, Weaver, Robertson, Vareille, Dunn and McGeown.

**Partick Thistle:** Tuffey, Robertson, Archibald, Gibson, Trialist, Trialist, Strachan, Trialist, Buchanan, Trialist and Murray **Subs:** Trialist, Boyd, Lennon, Chaplain, Trialist, Roberts and Donnelly.

In the opening minute of the second half Murray Henderson scored with a header from a Ryan Stevenson free-kick. Ex-Ayr United player Scott Chaplain quickly equalised. Eddie Forrest (57) tied up the scoring when he touched home a David Lowing corner-kick. A challenge by Scott Boyd on Michael Moore resulted in a penalty which Andy McLaren struck high over the bar.

**Thursday 10th July, 2008 –**

**Somerset Park – Ayr United 1**

**Partick Thistle 2.**

**Team:** Grindlay, McEwan, McGowan, Forrest, Henderson, Bagan, Woodburn, Weaver, Prunty, Williams and Agnew; subs – Stevenson, Aitken, Walker, Kinnaid, Murphy, Dunbar and Stewart.

Can you guess who scored for Partick Thistle? Yes, Mark Roberts (14). Kevin McKinlay (29) made it 2-0. The long scoreless spell was broken by Lloyd Murphy (87).



# ES CONTINUE AGAINST ....



## MOTHERWELL

**Saturday 12th April, 1947**

**Somerset Park**

**Ayr United 3 - Motherwell 1**

**Team:** Barbour, John Stewart, Kelly, Smith, McNeil, Nesbit, McGuigan, Ouchterlonie, Morrison, Wallace and Beattie.

Prominent in the history of Motherwell FC is a legendary left-wing partnership of George Stevenson and Bob Ferrier. This match comprised a reunion of the old team mates with Ferrier managing Ayr United and Stevenson managing Motherwell. Malky Morrison (10, 40) and Alec Beattie (75) got the Ayr goals in this win over 'A' Division opposition.

**Thursday 23rd July, 1992**

**Somerset Park**

**Ayr United 1 - Motherwell 2**

**Team:** Duncan, Burley, McVie, Furphy, Howard, Kennedy, McLean, McTurk, Graham, Gardner and Mair **Subs:** Hood, Fraser, Agnew, Shaw and Walker. **Motherwell:** Sneddon, McKinnon, Martin, Jones, Nijholt, McLeod, Angus, Ferguson, O'Donnell and Cooper **Subs:** Kirk, Shepstone, Shepperd and Dykstra.

Count the players in that Motherwell starting line-up and it will come to ten. This is down to

your writer being less than vigilant in his note taking in 1992. Greg Shaw (52) scored from a penalty after he had been impeded by Luc Nijholt. Nijholt (75) atoned when he equalised from a penalty awarded after a Willie Furphy challenge on Steve Kirk. Kirk (87) volleyed Motherwell's winner.

**Saturday 26th July, 2003**

**Somerset Park**

**Ayr United 1 - Motherwell 4**

**Team:** Roy, Lyle, Kerr, C.Hillcoat, Campbell, Burgess, Chaplain, Smyth, Kean, Black and Latta **Subs:** McGrady, Mullen, McColl, A.Ferguson and J.Hillcoat.

**Motherwell:** Marshall, Corrigan, Hammell, Lasley, Craigan, Partridge, Craig, Leitch, Clarkson, Pearson and Burns **Subs:** Quinn, Adams, Trialist, McDonald, Kinniburgh, Ballantyne and Fagan.

Alex Burns (23, 28, 42) got a first half hat-trick. This was punctuated by a goal from Steven Craig to put it out of sight at 4-0 at half-time. Stewart Kean lobbed Gordon Marshall for the only goal of the second half.

**Wednesday 25th July, 2007**

**Somerset Park**

**Ayr United 1 - Motherwell 3**

**Team:** McGeown, Pettigrew, Forrest, Robertson, Henderson, Casey, Hamilton, Weaver, Moore, Varelle and Dunn **Subs:** Swift, Lowing, Higgins, Wardlaw, Stevenson, Williams and McLaren. **Motherwell:** Meldrum, Connolly, D.Murphy, Reynolds, Nixon, Forbes, Lasley, Mensing, Clarkson, McCormack and McGarry

**Subs:** Murray, Wilson, Molloy, Gupwell, J.Murphy, D.Smith and Martin.

Keith Lasley (12) scored with a header from a Ross McCormack

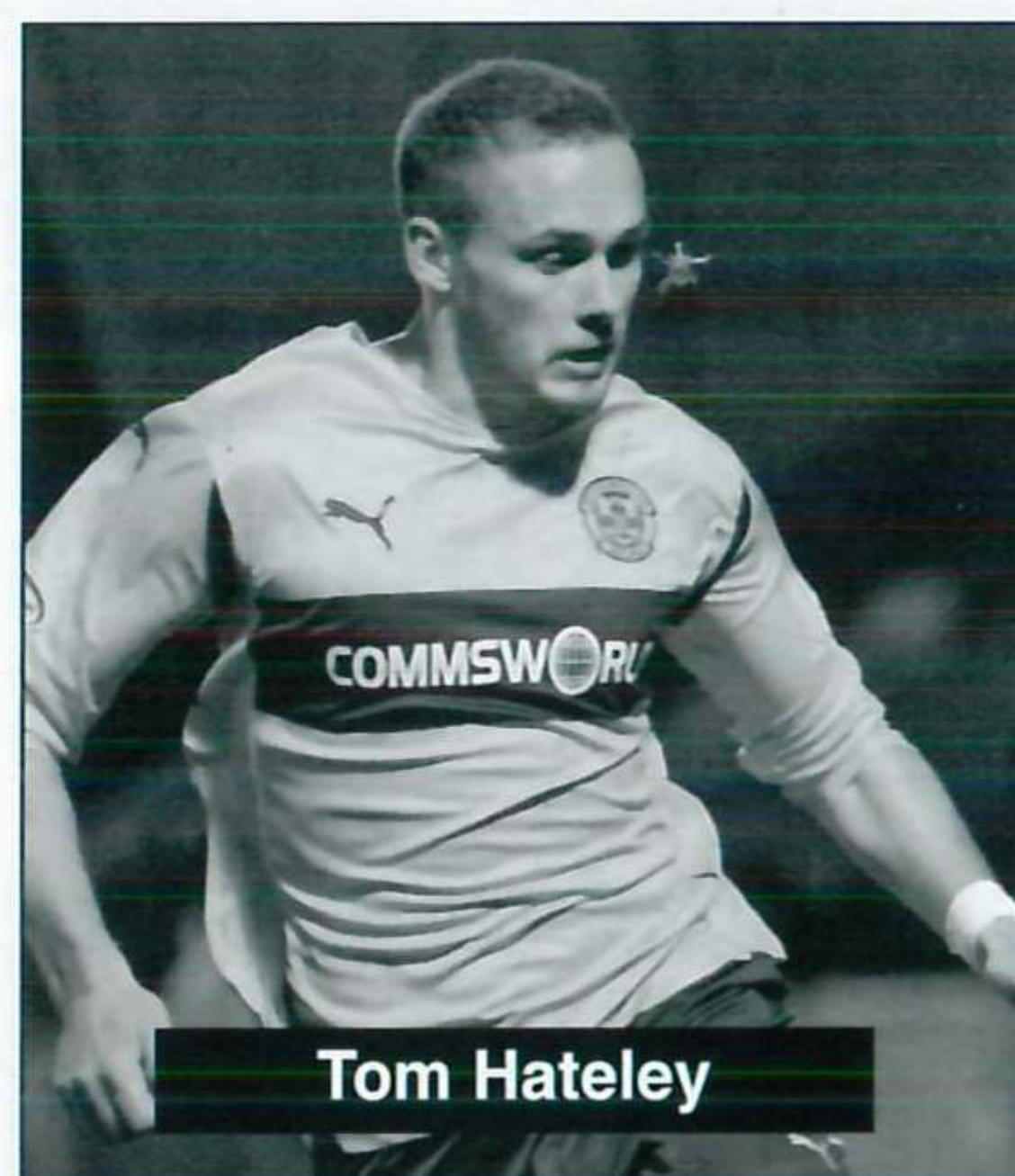
cross. David Dunn (33) squared the score from a free-kick which took a deflection then found the net via an erratic course. David Clarkson (36) re-established Motherwell's lead after being set up by McCormack. In 53 minutes McCormack again set up a goal for Clarkson. One minute after that goal Motherwell's David Nixon was sent off for denying Gareth Wardlaw a goal scoring opportunity.

**Saturday 10th July, 2010**

**Somerset Park**

**Ayr United 1 - Motherwell 2**

**Team:** Crawford, McLachlan, Smith, Donnelly, Campbell, McKeown, Trouten, Kennan,



**Tom Hateley**

Moffat, Rodgers and Easton **Subs:** Woodburn, Roberts, K.Connolly, Robertson, Tiffoney, A.Connolly, Paterson, McGuinness and Jones. **Motherwell:** Randolph, Saunders, Hammill, Reynolds, Craigan, Lasley, Humphrey, Jennings, Murphy, Forbes and Sutton; McHugh, Page, Hateley, Smith, Bradley, Hutchison and Charalambous.

Andy Rodgers (27) made it 1-0 with a low, fierce shot. Ross Forbes levelled it in the second half with a free-kick that went under the wall. Robert McHugh (89) struck the clincher.



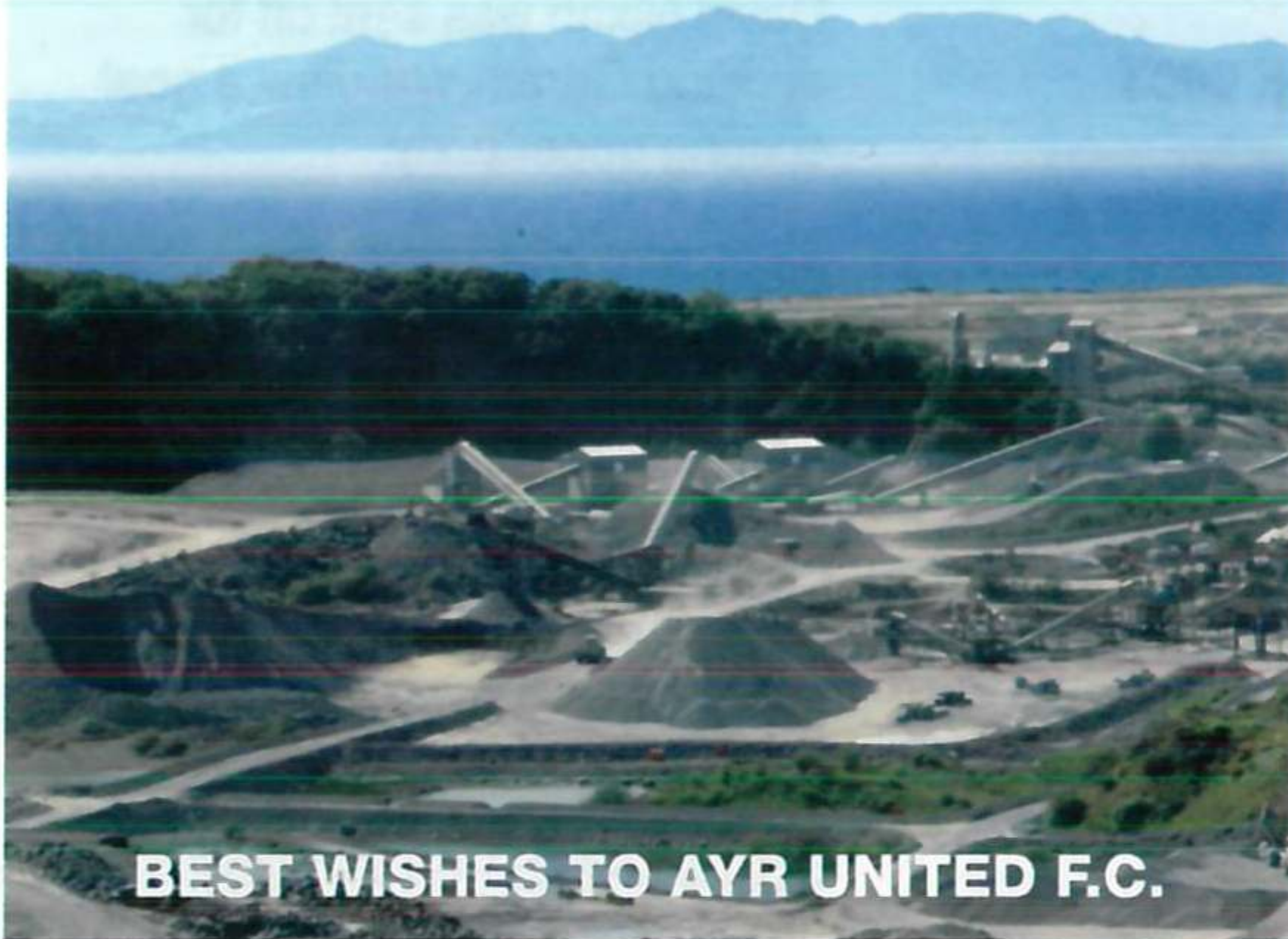


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# OWEN COYLE - INTERVIEW

**On July 18th, a team of internationally capped players will grace the Somerset Park turf under the guidance of a man who has fond memories of playing at Somerset Park.**

Owen Coyle always had an impressive scoring record against The Honest Men and he will return as Manager of Bolton Wanderers to take on Mark Roberts's Ayr United team. Coyle played alongside the new Ayr boss at Airdrie and he is looking forward to pitting his wits against him in Bolton's first pre-season match this summer. He said: "Marko and I played together and he was quality as a player. He is a fantastic lad as well. He'll learn things quickly and having him as the Manager is a terrific appointment for Ayr United". He continues:

everyone craves regardless of their occupation is opportunity. If you get the opportunity, it is up to you to maximise it and Marko will know that if he does well with Ayr then other clubs will approach him. I have got no doubts that if Marko gets an opportunity to manage at a higher level, he will grasp it and start moving up through the levels."

On returning to Somerset Park, Coyle said: "I have lots of memories of playing at Somerset. I remember chipping the Ayr goalie from the half way line one year. I also played my last game for Airdrionians at Somerset Park when the Airdrie fans ran on the park, broke the crossbar and the game was abandoned.

"I had an unbelievable scoring record against Ayr. They were

go back to somewhere that you did well."



**Owen playing for Airdrie**

*"I've played alongside some top quality players but I absolutely loved playing with Marko because we were on the same wavelength. He is very intelligent on a football level and I always thought that he could progress to being a Manager because he always thought about the game. The one thing he lacked was lightening pace but in terms of ability, technique and a football brain, he ticked all the boxes"*

Owen Coyle began management at a young age with Falkirk and has since gone on to ply his trade in the English Premiership and he thinks that Mark Roberts could follow in his footsteps. He said: "The one thing that

just one of those teams that I always seemed to do well against. On my debut for Airdrie I scored a hat trick against them at Broomfield. That is why I am looking forward to coming to Somerset as it is always good to

Coyle continued: "I always felt that Somerset Park had a terrific pitch and I wanted to have a good test in our first pre-season game and Ayr will provide that. The fans always provide a great atmosphere and they used to give me a fair bit of stick. The game against Ayr United will help us prepare for the season ahead.

"I have met the Ayr United owner, Lachlan Cameron, before in Los Angeles when I was out there with one of my teams and he came to a couple of days training. I got on really well with him.

"Everyone behind the scenes at Ayr United work hard at their job and I think it is important that Bolton come and play against good clubs to help bring a big crowd along and create a great atmosphere."

*Continues over...*



# OWEN COYLE - CONTINUED

Despite being relegated from the Premiership last season, Bolton Wanderers possess many talented individuals who have played at the highest level and they will all be making an appearance at Somerset Park.

Coyle said: "All of our top players will be at Somerset for the game. Ádám Bogdán is an international goalkeeper and he will play, Tim Ream is an international centre back for USA and he will also play along with Zat Knight, Matt Mills, Keith Andrews, Kevin Davies, Chung-Yong Lee, David N'Gog, Marcus Alonso and Martin Petrov. Young Gregg Wylde will also play his first match for the club after signing a couple of months ago from Rangers. "I will also be bringing some fantastic young talents to Somerset Park. Joe Riley is a promising right back and Josh Vela is also a great prospect who will make the trip north. I actually turned down 1 million pounds from Liverpool who put in a bid for Josh last August.

"There's no doubt that it'll be a fantastic game for us as we will be tested because the Ayr United players will be out to prove that they can compete against people who are playing at a high level. It'll make for a marvellous night.

"Along with Ayr United, we will also take on Hamilton Accies and Falkirk while we're in Scotland. I love coming back to Scotland



Gregg Wylde

because as much as we play down in England I want the best for Scottish football and I want Bolton to be seen in a good light."

Mark Roberts has promised the fans that the youngsters from the club's Academy will be given chances to shine throughout the season and Coyle thinks that that is a wise idea.

He stated: "I am a big believer in giving the young players an opportunity so much so that I've never spent money on a player over 24 years of age.

"It is important to have young players in your squad as well as experience in the right places. That then gives the club longevity which is extremely important."

Following Roberts's appointment at Ayr, Coyle has promised him that he would be willing to provide Ayr United with young players on loan from Bolton. He explained: "When I was Burnley Manager I loaned Jay Rodriguez to Stirling Albion and he's just moved to Southampton for 6.5 million pounds. If there is the right player for Marko and we want him to develop then it is something that I would definitely look at doing."

Article by Michael Lamont

“

*I have told the players that although Ayr United are not in the SPL they will still provide a good challenge as they have good young players.*

”







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| A white card with a blue border and a small white pushpin at the top left. The text 'Self care' is written in a blue, sans-serif font.                     | A cartoon illustration of a woman sitting in a chair, holding her knee in pain. She is wearing a pink top and blue pants.                              | For a speedy recovery, taking care of yourself is the best option when you have a minor illness or injury such as a hangover, grazed knee, sore throat, coughs and colds                  |
| A white card with a green border and a small white pushpin at the top left. The text 'Pharmacist' is written in a green, sans-serif font.                  | A cartoon illustration of a pharmacist in a blue uniform, holding a small jar and a spoon, preparing a mixture.                                        | For advice and information on minor illnesses including coughs and colds, indigestion, constipation, aches and pains                                                                      |
| A white card with a purple border and a small white pushpin at the top left. The text 'Dentist' is written in a purple, sans-serif font.                   | A cartoon illustration of a dentist in a blue uniform, wearing a mask and cap, examining a patient's teeth.                                            | For regular check ups, planned routine treatment and emergency care. If you don't have a dentist call the Dental Helpline on 01563 578664 (8.30am - 6pm Mon to Fri)                       |
| A white card with a pink border and a small white pushpin at the top left. The text 'Optometrist' is written in a pink, sans-serif font.                   | A cartoon illustration of an optometrist in a purple uniform, wearing glasses, examining a patient's eyes. A sign next to them says 'NHS can see you'. | For eye problems such as blurred vision, difficulty seeing well or any discomfort such as red eyes, irritated eyes, itchy eyes, watery eyes or sticky eyes                                |
| A white card with a yellow border and a small white pushpin at the top left. The text 'Family doctor GP Practice' is written in a yellow, sans-serif font. | A cartoon illustration of a family doctor in a blue uniform, sitting at a desk and looking at a sign that says 'Make a GP appointment'.                | For conditions that just won't go away such as vomiting, ear pain, sore belly and back ache                                                                                               |
| A white card with a blue border and a small white pushpin at the top left. The text 'NHS out-of-hours service' is written in a blue, sans-serif font.      | A cartoon illustration of a woman in a pink top, talking on a green telephone. A sign next to her says 'NHS24 08454 242424'.                           | For immediate advice when your GP or dental surgery is not open, call <b>NHS 24</b> on <b>08454 24 24 24</b> this is how you get an appointment with a doctor when your surgery is closed |
| A white card with an orange border and a small white pushpin at the top left. The text 'Minor injuries service' is written in an orange, sans-serif font.  | A cartoon illustration of a person in a yellow shirt, holding a bandage, tending to a wound on another person's arm.                                   | For urgent care of minor injuries such as cuts, minor burns and sprains go to; Girvan Community Hospital, Ayr Hospital, Arran Memorial Hospital or Crosshouse Hospital                    |
| A white card with a red border and a small white pushpin at the top left. The text 'Accident and Emergency (A&E)' is written in a red, sans-serif font.    | A cartoon illustration of a person in a green shirt, carrying a person on a stretcher, with an ambulance in the background.                            | For serious illness or accidents like suspected stroke, heart attack, head injuries, fractures or wounds requiring stitches                                                               |



# RYAN McSTAY

**After being appointed as Manager, Mark Roberts was keen to bring in new faces to the club and was delighted when Ryan McStay decided to join The Honest Men for the up and coming League campaign.**

Ryan McStay is a central midfielder and the 26 year old is looking forward to working under his former team mate.

He said: "I spoke to Marko as soon as he got the job and he outlined his plans. I was very impressed with what he had to say as the way he wants to play football suits me down to a tea.

Hopefully we can get off to a great start in the League and seal promotion back to the First Division as that is the main objective.

"I'm delighted to be here and am looking forward to working with Marko who is one of my good mates as I know him from Partick. He has great ambitions as a young Manager and I still think he still has a lot to offer as a player. I think he'll be one of the best strikers in the league next season if he plays regularly."

Another major influence in McStay joining

Ayr United was the stature of the club.

He admitted:

"Ayr United are the best part time team in Scotland. That is why they have been up and down from the First Division recently. They have fantastic fans as well, especially for a part time club.

"Somerset Park is a great ground and the fans always get behind the team. Ayr



always get more than 1,000 at every home game so hopefully the fans can get behind us this year and help us secure promotion.

"The boys will give 100% all the time and we'll try to win as many games as possible.

We'll have our downs as well as our ups but I hope that the supporters provide a great backing throughout the

season and help make Somerset Park a fortress."

McStay made his name in Scottish Football while playing for Falkirk and scored the goal that elevated the club into the SPL but he is hoping to experience more success with The Honest Men.

He said "Scoring the goal that promoted Falkirk from the First Division and playing in the SPL was fantastic. Reaching the SPL is the pinnacle of anyone's career and it was great to do that. However, some wrong decisions on my part have seen me drop down to part time but I am enjoying every minute of it. Football is a hobby to me and I will be the happiest boy about if I can be successful with Ayr United."

Having already signed David Sinclair, Mark Roberts is hopeful that McStay can form a successful partnership with the former Livingston man in the centre of midfield. McStay said: "I've played against Davie a few times. He's a similar player to myself in that he tries to dictate things from the middle of the park. Hopefully we can click in the pre-season games and form a

successful partnership. "I would say I have a good

“

*he was fantastic in training and never, ever gave the ball away*

”



# RYAN McSTAY

range of passing. My aim is to be the playmaker and create lots of goals. I also like to take most of the corners and free kicks. I scored three free kicks last year but I didn't take as many as I would have liked. Hopefully I can score a few for Ayr.

"This season I hope to win the league with Ayr so that means I will have won the First, Second and Third Division. A lot of players who are better than me have gone through their careers without winning anything so hopefully I can be successful this season."

Mark Roberts was elated to sign McStay and said:

"McStay is a great football player and has a fantastic range of passing. He is a link between the defence, midfield and attack. Ryan will not go flying into tackles but he'll work hard to get on the ball. I know what he can do and hopefully I can get the best out of him."

"He was brilliant when I

played with him at Partick Thistle. He didn't get an awful lot of game time but he was fantastic in training and never, ever gave the ball away."

In the next week, Ayr will compete against some high profile teams in pre-season friendlies and McStay is very much looking forward to playing against them.

He said: "Motherwell will provide a great test and will be harder than last Tuesday's game against Queens Park as we won't have a lot of the ball. It'll give us the sharpness we need and help the fitness levels to stand us in good stead for the rest of the pre-season games."

"I'm looking forward to facing Partick Thistle as they are my former team and it'll be good to see a few familiar faces."

"The Bolton game will be really good. I know Owen Coyle from my days at Falkirk and it'll be great to pitch ourselves up against top



quality players as it'll benefit us in the long run.

"I've never played against Glentoran before but I've heard that they are a physical side and it's important that we practice against teams like that before the season starts."

*"This season  
I hope to win  
the league  
with Ayr"*

**Article by Michael Lamont**





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# PENNNED IN - THE F

## IT'S ONLY WHEN...

You wake up in a sweat half way through the night only to realise that the reason you are suffering so badly is because some joker happened to mention the bleeding name Rangers that you

come to know that things have gone on long enough! So I can promise that THIS will be about

football and not the shenanigans associated with the SFL/SPL/SFA summer blockbuster!

So, the Second Division! As I look out amongst the team and try once again, in my dotage to identify who all the new players are, Niamh did her usual at this time of the year and wondered where all the ones she watched last year have gone! Well have they shown enough to manage a deal in a full time set up within the First Division? It is quite astonishing just how many have!

Well, up in Airdrie on that fateful night and down in Ayr the following game, Brian Reid used a number of players in an attempt to get us to stay in the First. In goals we had Kevin Cuthbert with Ryan McWilliams on the bench. Both are

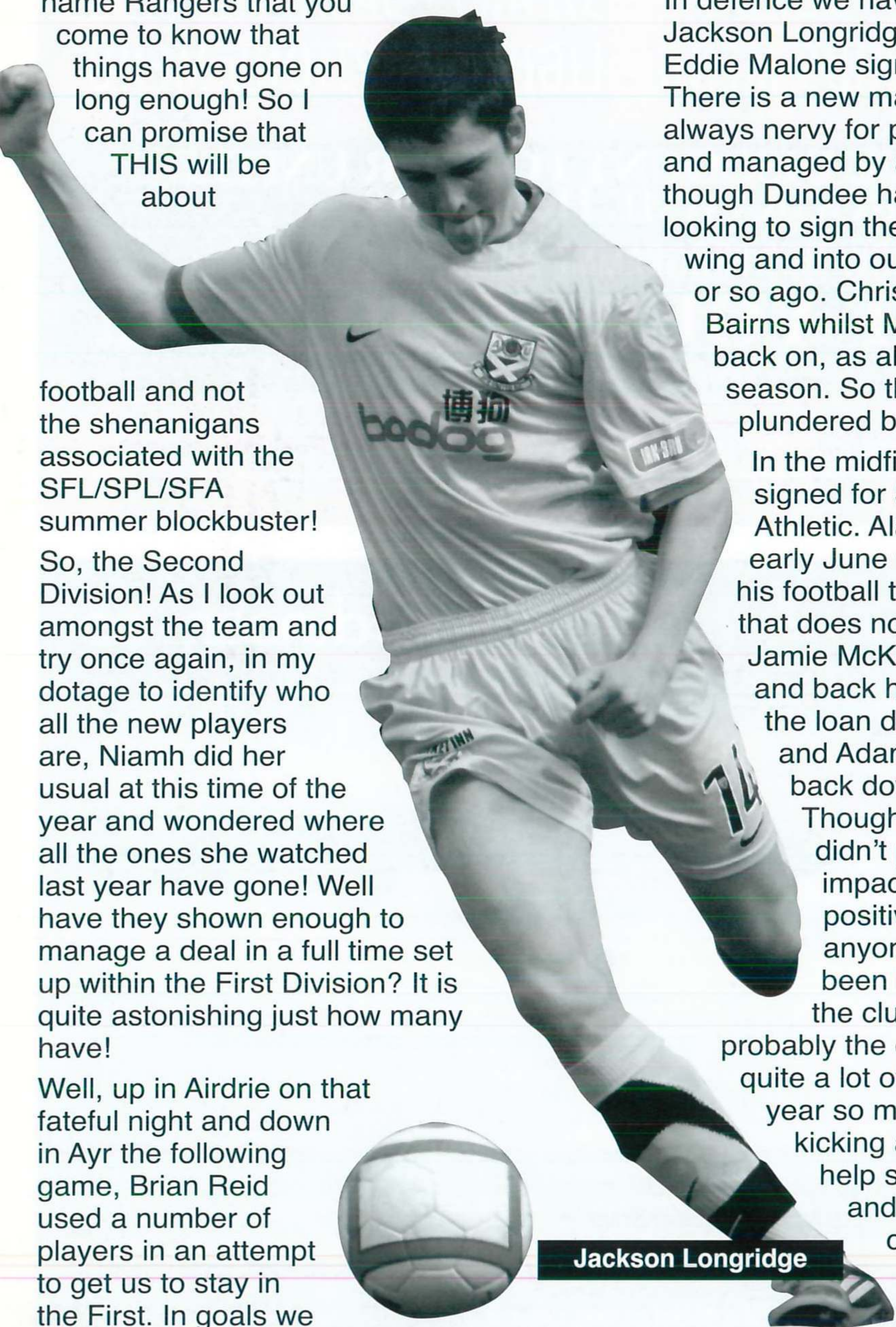
away. Cuthbert has signed on at Hamilton Accies whilst Ryan had a trial game with Elgin City last week. The changes have certainly been rung though we would have kept "The Cat" had we been able to!

In defence we have also seen big changes. Jackson Longridge remains with us but Eddie Malone signed on at Raith Rovers. There is a new manager there which is always nervy for players – signed by one and managed by another! Tiff is still around though Dundee have been reportedly looking to sign the guy who burst up the left wing and into our consciousness a season or so ago. Chris Smith has signed for the Bairns whilst Martyn Campbell signed back on, as always, early in the close season. So the back line has been well plundered by First Division sides!

In the midfield Andy Geggan has signed for SPL/SFL side Dunfermline Athletic. Alan Trouten was unsure in early June where he would be laying his football this coming season and that does not seem to have changed. Jamie McKernon's loan deal ran out and back he went to St Mirren whilst the loan deals on both Liam Tomsett and Adam Dodd both have gone back down south to Blackpool.

Though both lads from Blackpool didn't play in the play offs the impact they made were hugely positive and I am yet to meet anyone who wouldn't have been happy to keep them on at the club. The midfield was probably the one place that came in for quite a lot of terracing criticism last year so maybe the lack of players kicking about from last year will help shape the new midfield and help eradicate some criticism. Mmm?

Up front The Moff is still with us and even managed the first goal of the season in pre season against Queens



**Jackson Longridge**



# RIENDLY VERSION...

Park in a closed doors game so that bodes well. Ross Robertson also signed on early for Marko and has been handed a striker's role for him. Keigan Parker does not seem to have procured a spot in another team for the coming season and this may well mean that as time progresses the man whose overhead kick won the SFL goal of the season for last season may find his feet back in AUFC boots. It will, of course, all depend upon what Mark Roberts thinks.

The biggest change and therefore perhaps the greatest challenge is for Mark Roberts. As player/manager he joins a growing list of players taking their first turn at management for season 2012/13. In this league he will be joined as player/manager alongside Allan Johnston at Queen of the South, Paul Sheerin at Arbroath whilst Todd Lumsden is attempting the same trick at Albion Rovers. Colin Cameron hopes to continue to play for Cowdenbeath in the First Division so we can benchmark Marko's development if we had a big enough anorak.

Previous sorties into the Second Division have reminded us just how difficult it is to get out of that division. This time round we will have Paul Hartley with Alloa Athletic tearing up from Division Two, old hands and wily heads at Forfar in Dick Campbell and at Brechin City with Jim Weir. East Fife will have Gordon Durie in charge for his first full season which for people like me is going to be fascinating whilst Airdrie United will have Jimmy Boyle once again. We could, of course have Stranraer in with us and Keith Knox has got the team closer last season to promotion than ever before – a few old faces in amongst that team that would get a right good welcome at Somerset! However spare a thought for Stenhousemuir. Having played one pre season game and having had a squad assembled to do this, Davie Irons has had to chuck it. Personal reasons are cited and the Board of Stenny are now faced with finding a new manager for the start of the season. One wonders where they will find one in time.... Know anyone looking for a job mebbes?

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# NEW HOME SHIRT ON SALE

**Ayr United are proud to launch the new home shirt for the forthcoming season which is on sale now from the club shop.**

The stylish new shirt is created by Nike for the third year in a row and is once again sponsored by Bodog.

The club badge is more prominent than previous strips with the crest being accompanied by black embroidery.

The new shirt will be worn with white shorts and socks for the forthcoming season.

The Ayr United Academy logo will adorn the back of the shirts for the third year in a row to further demonstrate the importance of the organisation in the development of the club.

The Academy will also sponsor the children's replica shirts.

Features of the new jersey include:

- Crew neck design.
- Dri-FIT construction which draws sweat away from the skin, keeping you cool and comfortable.
- Dri-FIT mesh side, shoulder and lower back panels which will keep you optimally ventilated and move moisture rapidly away from the body.



Austin McCann was impressed with the new look and said: "It is really nice. I like an all-white strip and I'm sure the fans will like it as well."

"The shirt is comfortable to wear and is a good fit. It is good that the new top is made by Nike as their tops are always top quality. The fans will not be disappointed if they go and buy one."

"It is also positive that the shirts are sponsored by Bodog again. Not only does it improve the look of the strips, it also makes the club look better."

"I like that the strip is quite a simple design. Personally, I prefer a plainer strip."

Mark Roberts was equally impressed with the new home top and said: "The new strip is beautiful. I like that it is all white as we'll look like Real

Madrid. I wore an all white strip in the first year I signed and I really liked it then."

"Hopefully the fans like the new strip as much as myself and go out and buy as many as possible to help the club out."

*"I hope to see lots of people wearing the new strip on the terracing and in the stands throughout the season."*

MR

**Price-Adult shirt - £40**

**Youth Shirt - £32**

Shop opening times-Mon-Fri  
12pm-5pm Sat-10am-2pm

**The new strips are also available to order online.**

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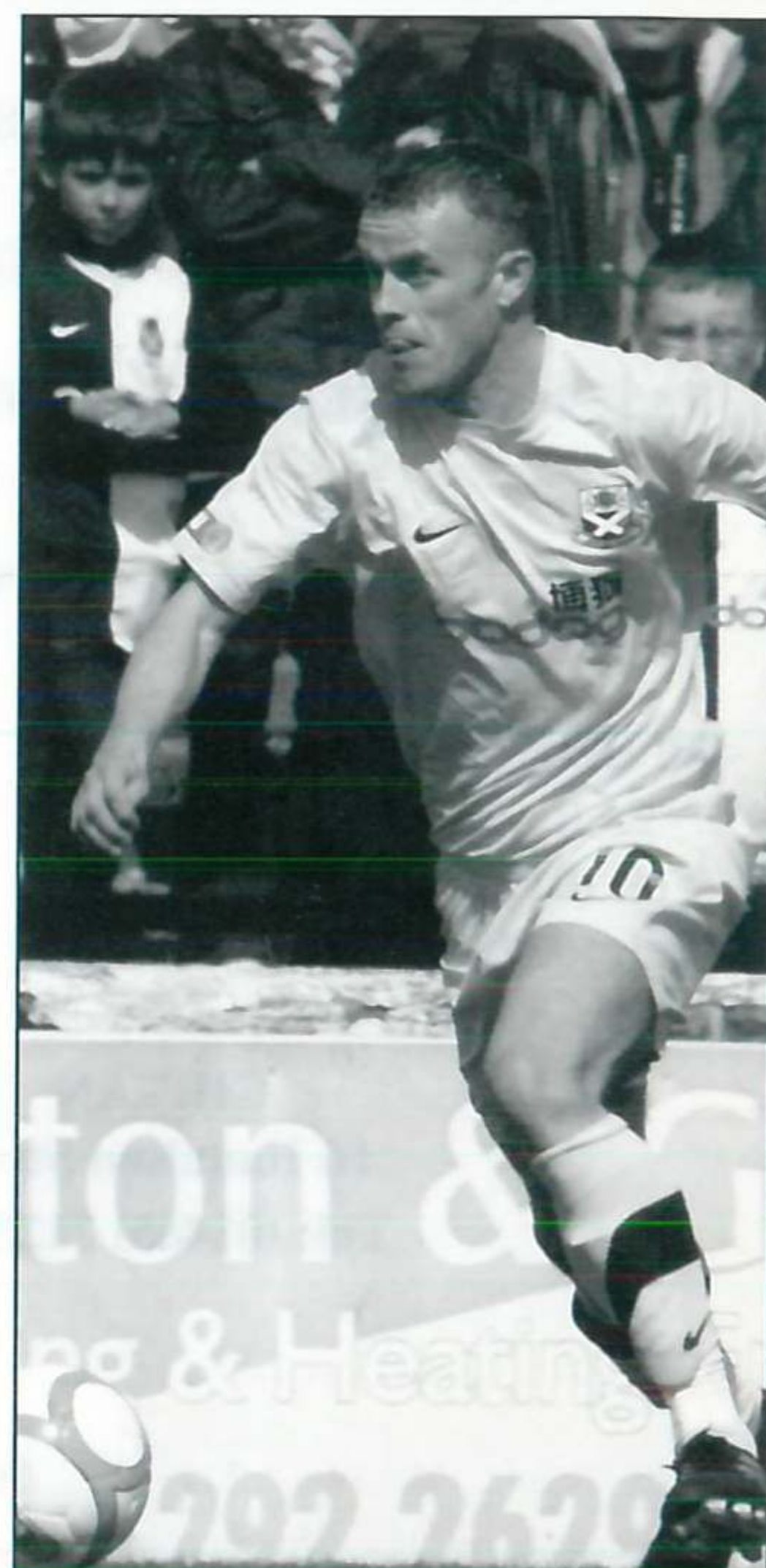
**CALL JIMMY COPE FOR FURTHER DETAILS OR TO MAKE A BOOKING.**



# 2011-12 AT A GLANCE

| NAME              | PREVIOUS CLUB        | DATE OF SIGNING | 2011-12<br>APPS GLS | AYR UTD<br>APPS GLS | CAREER<br>GLS |
|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| GARETH ARMSTRONG  | YOUTH ACADEMY        | 05-08-11        | 4(3) 0              | 4(4) 0              | 0             |
| ALEX BURKE        | DUNFERMLINE ATHLETIC | 24-07-11        | 4(2) 0              | 4(2) 0              | 0             |
| MARTYN CAMPBELL   | IRVINE MEADOW        | 01-07-05        | 13(3) 1             | 165(10) 3           | 3             |
| RYAN CONNOLLY     | DERBY COUNTY         | LOAN            | 2(10) 0             | 2(10) 0             | 0             |
| ROBBIE CRAWFORD   | YOUTH ACADEMY        | -----           | 1 0                 | 1 0                 | 0             |
| KEVIN CUTHBERT    | MORTON               | 27-06-11        | 50 0                | 50 0                | 0             |
| ADAM DODD         | BLACKPOOL            | LOAN            | 15(4) 2             | 15(4) 2             | 2             |
| STUART DUFF       | INVERNESS CT         | TRIALIST        | 3 0                 | 3 0                 | 0             |
| ANDY GEGGAN       | DUMBARTON            | 27-06-11        | 47 7                | 47 7                | 7             |
| SEAN HIGGINS      | ST.JOHNSTONE         | LOAN            | 1 0                 | 1 0                 | 0             |
| STEVEN HUTCHISON  | YOUTH ACADEMY        | -----           | 1(1) 0              | 1(1) 0              | 0             |
| JACKSON LONGRIDGE | YOUTH ACADEMY        | -----           | 3(1) 0              | 3(1) 0              | 0             |
| EDDIE MALONE      | DUNDEE               | 24-09-10        | 45 5                | 81 6                | 6             |
| DARREN MCGILL     | YOUTH ACADEMY        | -----           | 1 0                 | 1 0                 | 0             |
| MICHAEL MCGOWAN   | ALLOA ATHLETIC       | 27-06-11        | 43(4) 5             | 43(4) 5             | 5             |
| JAMIE MCKERNON    | ST.MIRREN            | LOAN            | 22(8) 1             | 22(8) 1             | 1             |
| TAM MCMANUS       | FALKIRK              | 29-11-11        | 3(3) 0              | 21(3) 6             | 6             |
| RYAN MCWILLIAMS   | MORTON               | 30-07-10        | 1 0                 | 2(1) 0              | 0             |
| MICHAEL MOFFAT    | GIRVAN               | 10-01-11        | 45(6) 9             | 69(8) 20            | 20            |
| KEIGAN PARKER     | AFC FYLDE            | 31-01-12        | 16(3) 4             | 16(3) 4             | 4             |
| RODDY PATERSON    | YOUTH ACADEMY        | 21-10-09        | 3(2) 1              | 3(6) 1              | 1             |
| MARK ROBERTS      | PARTICK THISTLE      | 30-01-09        | 35(13) 11           | 129(20) 54          | 54            |
| JOHN ROBERTSON    | PARTICK THISTLE      | 27-06-11        | 38 2                | 177(12) 7           | 7             |
| ROSS ROBERTSON    | YOUTH ACADEMY        | 19-10-09        | 13(18) 3            | 21(39) 5            | 5             |
| CHRIS SMITH       | DUMBARTON            | 23-07-10        | 49 2                | 90(1) 3             | 3             |
| JONATHAN TIFFONEY | YOUTH ACADEMY        | 19-10-09        | 40(4) 1             | 73(12) 1            | 1             |
| LIAM TOMSETT      | BLACKPOOL            | LOAN            | 18(2) 1             | 18(2) 1             | 1             |
| ALAN TROUTEN      | AIRDRIE UNITED       | 01-06-10        | 28(8) 5             | 69(9) 12            | 12            |
| GARETH WARDLAW    | ST.MIRREN            | 27-06-11        | 17(19) 3            | 91(67) 31           | 31            |
| AARON WYLLIE      | YOUTH ACADEMY        | -----           | 0(1) 0              | 0(1) 0              | 0             |

UP TO AND INCLUDING MATCH PLAYED ON 12TH MAY 2012. INCLUDES LEAGUE, SCOTTISH CUP, LEAGUE CUP, CHALLENGE CUP AND PLAY-OFFS. BRACKETS INDICATE PLAYER GOING ON AS A SUBSTITUTE BUT EXCLUDES SUBSTITUTE LISTINGS WHERE THE PLAYER HAS REMAINED UNUSED.



Mark Roberts in action

## FINAL SCOTTISH LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

| TEAM              | P  | HOME |   |   |    |    | AWAY |   |    |    |    | GD  | PTS |
|-------------------|----|------|---|---|----|----|------|---|----|----|----|-----|-----|
|                   |    | W    | D | L | F  | A  | W    | D | L  | F  | A  |     |     |
| 1 ROSS COUNTY     | 36 | 11   | 7 | 0 | 40 | 14 | 11   | 6 | 1  | 32 | 18 | 40  | 79  |
| 2 DUNDEE          | 36 | 7    | 5 | 6 | 25 | 20 | 8    | 5 | 5  | 28 | 23 | 10  | 55  |
| 3 FALKIRK         | 36 | 9    | 6 | 3 | 29 | 21 | 4    | 7 | 7  | 24 | 27 | 5   | 52  |
| 4 HAMILTON        | 36 | 8    | 3 | 7 | 33 | 30 | 6    | 4 | 8  | 22 | 26 | -1  | 49  |
| 5 LIVINGSTON      | 36 | 5    | 6 | 7 | 26 | 29 | 8    | 3 | 7  | 30 | 25 | 2   | 48  |
| 6 PARTICK THISTLE | 36 | 7    | 6 | 5 | 27 | 16 | 5    | 5 | 8  | 23 | 23 | 11  | 47  |
| 7 RAITH ROVERS    | 36 | 7    | 4 | 7 | 24 | 21 | 4    | 7 | 7  | 22 | 28 | -3  | 44  |
| 8 MORTON          | 36 | 5    | 5 | 8 | 24 | 29 | 5    | 7 | 6  | 16 | 26 | -15 | 42  |
| 9 AYR             | 36 | 5    | 7 | 6 | 22 | 25 | 4    | 4 | 10 | 22 | 42 | -23 | 38  |
| 10 QUEEN OF SOUTH | 36 | 6    | 5 | 7 | 21 | 31 | 1    | 6 | 11 | 17 | 33 | -26 | 32  |

## FINAL SCOTTISH LEAGUE DIVISION TWO

| TEAM            | P  | HOME |   |   |    |    | AWAY |   |    |    |    | GD  | PTS |
|-----------------|----|------|---|---|----|----|------|---|----|----|----|-----|-----|
|                 |    | W    | D | L | F  | A  | W    | D | L  | F  | A  |     |     |
| 1 COWDENBEATH   | 36 | 13   | 4 | 1 | 37 | 10 | 7    | 7 | 4  | 31 | 19 | 39  | 71  |
| 2 ARBROATH      | 36 | 10   | 5 | 3 | 44 | 23 | 7    | 7 | 4  | 32 | 28 | 25  | 63  |
| 3 DUMBARTON     | 36 | 10   | 2 | 6 | 30 | 30 | 7    | 5 | 6  | 31 | 31 | 0   | 58  |
| 4 AIRDRIE UTD   | 36 | 9    | 4 | 5 | 43 | 30 | 5    | 6 | 7  | 25 | 30 | 8   | 52  |
| 5 STENHOUSEMUIR | 36 | 9    | 2 | 7 | 32 | 23 | 6    | 4 | 8  | 22 | 26 | 5   | 51  |
| 6 EAST FIFE     | 36 | 7    | 4 | 7 | 27 | 29 | 7    | 2 | 9  | 28 | 28 | -2  | 48  |
| 7 FORFAR        | 36 | 6    | 5 | 7 | 33 | 34 | 5    | 4 | 9  | 26 | 38 | -13 | 42  |
| 8 BRECHIN       | 36 | 5    | 6 | 7 | 24 | 30 | 5    | 5 | 8  | 23 | 32 | -15 | 41  |
| 9 ALBION        | 36 | 6    | 6 | 6 | 25 | 22 | 4    | 1 | 13 | 18 | 44 | -23 | 37  |
| 10 STIRLING     | 36 | 4    | 5 | 9 | 22 | 29 | 5    | 2 | 11 | 24 | 41 | -24 | 34  |

## SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE

| TEAM            | P  | HOME |   |    |    |    | AWAY |   |    |    |    | GD  | PTS |
|-----------------|----|------|---|----|----|----|------|---|----|----|----|-----|-----|
|                 |    | W    | D | L  | F  | A  | W    | D | L  | F  | A  |     |     |
| 1 CELTIC        | 37 | 16   | 1 | 1  | 36 | 6  | 13   | 2 | 4  | 43 | 15 | 58  | 90  |
| 2 RANGERS       | 37 | 12   | 5 | 2  | 38 | 14 | 13   | 0 | 5  | 35 | 14 | 45  | 70  |
| 3 MOTHERWELL    | 37 | 9    | 3 | 6  | 27 | 22 | 9    | 5 | 5  | 22 | 20 | 7   | 62  |
| 4 DUNDEE UTD    | 37 | 8    | 6 | 5  | 27 | 16 | 7    | 5 | 6  | 33 | 34 | 10  | 56  |
| 5 HEARTS        | 37 | 11   | 0 | 8  | 30 | 19 | 4    | 7 | 7  | 15 | 19 | 7   | 52  |
| 6 ST JOHNSTONE  | 37 | 6    | 2 | 9  | 20 | 26 | 8    | 6 | 6  | 23 | 20 | -3  | 50  |
| 7 KILMARNOCK    | 37 | 7    | 7 | 6  | 29 | 35 | 3    | 7 | 7  | 13 | 25 | -18 | 44  |
| 8 ST MIRREN     | 37 | 6    | 6 | 7  | 23 | 25 | 3    | 9 | 6  | 16 | 26 | -12 | 42  |
| 9 ABERDEEN      | 37 | 6    | 7 | 5  | 22 | 16 | 3    | 6 | 10 | 14 | 28 | -8  | 40  |
| 10 INVERNESS CT | 37 | 4    | 5 | 9  | 17 | 27 | 5    | 4 | 10 | 23 | 33 | -20 | 36  |
| 11 HIBERNIAN    | 37 | 2    | 7 | 10 | 17 | 30 | 6    | 2 | 10 | 23 | 35 | -25 | 33  |
| 12 DUNFERMLINE  | 37 | 1    | 7 | 10 | 21 | 42 | 4    | 3 | 12 | 18 | 38 | -41 | 25  |

## FINAL SCOTTISH LEAGUE DIVISION THREE

| TEAM             | P  | HOME |   |   |    |    | AWAY |   |    |    |    | GD  | PTS |
|------------------|----|------|---|---|----|----|------|---|----|----|----|-----|-----|
|                  |    | W    | D | L | F  | A  | W    | D | L  | F  | A  |     |     |
| 1 ALLOA          | 36 | 13   | 4 | 1 | 43 | 13 | 10   | 4 | 4  | 27 | 26 | 31  | 77  |
| 2 QUEEN'S PARK   | 36 | 10   | 4 | 4 | 41 | 17 | 9    | 2 | 7  | 29 | 31 | 22  | 63  |
| 3 STRANRAER      | 36 | 10   | 2 | 6 | 43 | 33 | 7    | 5 | 6  | 34 | 24 | 20  | 58  |
| 4 ELGIN          | 36 | 11   | 3 | 4 | 43 | 17 | 5    | 6 | 7  | 25 | 43 | 8   | 57  |
| 5 PETERHEAD      | 36 | 7    | 5 | 6 | 25 | 23 | 8    | 1 | 9  | 26 | 30 | -2  | 51  |
| 6 ANNAN ATHLETIC | 36 | 7    | 5 | 6 | 28 | 26 | 6    | 5 | 7  | 25 | 27 | 0   | 49  |
| 7 BERWICK        | 36 | 6    | 5 | 7 | 30 | 28 | 6    | 7 | 5  | 31 | 30 | 3   | 48  |
| 8 MONTROSE       | 36 | 7    | 3 | 8 | 34 | 33 | 4    | 2 | 12 | 24 | 42 | -17 | 38  |
| 9 CLYDE          | 36 | 5    | 5 | 8 | 24 | 23 | 3    | 6 | 9  | 11 | 27 | -15 | 35  |
| 10 EAST STIRLING | 36 | 5    | 4 | 9 | 24 | 33 | 1    | 2 | 15 | 14 | 55 | -50 | 24  |



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Steven Hammell  
Tom Hateley  
Michael Higdon  
Chris Humphrey  
Shaun Hutchinson  
Keith Lasley  
Nicky Law  
Robert McHugh  
Jamie Murphy  
Henrik Ojamaa  
Jonathan Page  
Steven Saunders

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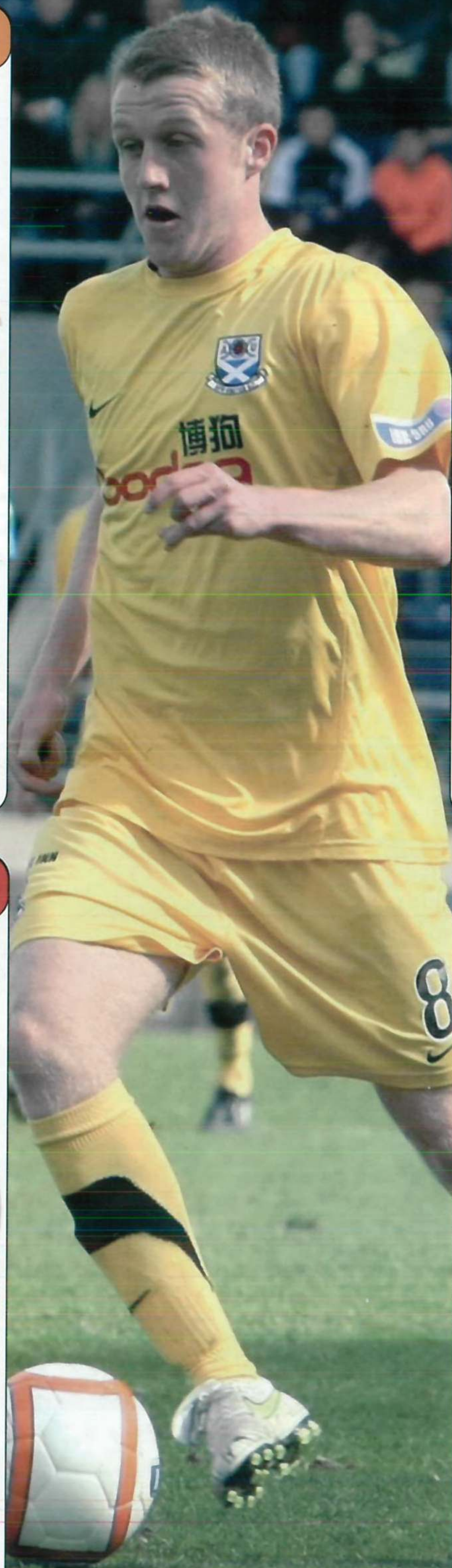
Adam Bogdan  
Marcos Alonso  
Matt Mills  
Tim Ream  
Fabrice Muamba  
Chris Eagles  
Keith Andrews  
Martin Petrov  
Gregg Wylde  
Zat Knight  
Kevin Davies  
Tyrone Mears  
Mark Davies  
Samuel Ricketts  
Darren Pratley  
Stuart Holden  
Joe Riley  
David Ngog  
Joshua Vela  
Rob Lainton  
Chung-Yong Lee  
Marvin Sordell  
Michael O'Halloran  
David Wheeler  
Tom Eaves  
Adam Blakeman  
Joe McKee  
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James Wightman  
Alan Archibald  
Conrad Balatoni  
Stuart Bannigan  
Jonathon Black  
David Brown  
Jamie Campbell  
Kris Doolan  
Christie Elliot  
Chris Erskine  
Shaun Fraser  
Bradley Halsam  
Dale Keenan  
Steve Lawless  
Johnny Lindsay  
Mark McGuigan  
Malcolm McLean  
Jordan Moffat  
Aaron Muirhead  
Hugh Murray  
Stephen O'Donnell  
Paul Paton  
David Rowson  
Aaron Sekhon  
Aaron Sinclair  
Sean Welsh  
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Owain Beggs  
Calum Birney  
Kevin Bradley  
Jimmy Callacher  
Stephen Carson  
Kyle Cherry  
Mark Clarke  
Richard Clarke  
Richard Gibson  
Jason Hill  
Aaron Hogg  
Matty Johnston  
Marcus Kane  
Jay Magee  
Stephen McAlorum  
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Martin Murray  
Colin Nixon  
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Robbie Crawford